

Save the Date

Prevent Prematurity Day
Capitol Rotunda
November 13-14, 2006
Helena

60th Montana Legislature
Opening Day
January 3, 2007
Helena

Spring Public Health Conference
April 17 - 19, 2007
Great Falls

MCHDMS Finishes Grant Applications

August 15th was the day of reckoning for the entire Family and Community Health Bureau, and especially so for the Maternal Child Health Data Monitoring Section (MCHDMS). On the 15th Montana's 06-07 Maternal Child Health Block Grant was officially reviewed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. The FCHB is proud to report that the three person review team had no "requirements" (corrections that must be completed on the application by September 15, 2006). The review team did have several suggestions. The suggestions comprised three main topics: data issues; a clearer connection between the Bureau's Strategic Plan: *Blueprint for Maternal and Child Health in Montana* and the Needs Assessment; and additional clarification of the numerous partnerships with service providers. The suggestions have been incorporated into the final application which can be accessed online at:

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov>.

Many thanks to our FCHB Contractors! The Block Grant would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance from each of our contractors for completing and returning the required yearly reports, and ensuring that county data is correct.

The 06-07 MCH Block Grant will require data collection from each county, as well as from other data sources such as Vital Statistics, on the 18 National Performance Measures and seven State Performance Measures, which can be found in Montana's application at the HRSA website. Montana is mandated to report on the National Performance Measures, but we select and determine how we will measure our 7-10 State Performance Measures. This input is an outcome from the FCHB Advisory Council.

The MCHDMS also received notification that the State Oral Health Grant was renewed for the upcoming year. This year's grant incorporated the hard work of the Montana Oral Health Alliance members' final product, the Montana Oral Health Plan and the Bureau's Strategic Plan. Maggie Virag, the Oral Health Education Consultant, will be overseeing the Grant's activities, among them being a Fluoride Varnish Treatment Program; assisting with coordinating the Montana Dental Association's program "Give Kids A Smile Day" to ensure that its services are maximized by the community it will be visiting; and facilitating the continued meeting of the Montana Oral Health Alliance.

Copies of the Montana Oral Health Plan and the Bureau's Strategic Plan can be requested by contacting Shannon Koenig at 406-444-4572.

WIC Information System Improvements Roll Out

WIC 2006 is rolling out to local agencies and is anticipated to be finished by the first of the year. State WIC personnel and IT personnel are performing installation and training. Local Agency staff will be attending training in Helena November 1st and 2nd.

These programming upgrades provide streamlined processes for printing WIC vouchers which will make it easier for agency personnel to print the vouchers and reduce food issuance errors. In addition, the new program replaces an old DOS based program and will provide improved reliability and performance.

These programming upgrades are a first step to improving the reliability and usability of the WIC system. The WIC program expects these and other improvements to improve the efficiency of our clinic operations.

Along with the upgrades to programming, a new check design has been introduced. This design has a lilac background and has been reorganized to better allow for correct retailer and participant use and compliance.

Mark Your Calendars!!

The Spring Public Health Conference will be April 17-19, 2007, in Great Falls. Watch future newsletters for more information about the conference, which will again feature national speakers and great opportunities to network with your MCH partners from across the state.

Abstinence Education Funding Available to Local Health Departments

The Montana Abstinence Education Program in Montana began this federal fiscal year. The program, which replaced the Montana Abstinence Partnership, incorporates abstinence education into the public health system. The program is funded by a grant from the Administration for Children and Families; the agency's aims include building "strong, supportive communities that have positive impact on the quality of life and the development of children". (ACF Aims, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf_about.html) Montana's Abstinence Education Program's five objectives are to:

- * Provide financial and programmatic resources to as many communities as possible to include abstinence education as part of the arsenal of services needed to promote healthy youth development.
- * Provide abstinence education to youth throughout the state of Montana.
- * Monitor the effectiveness of community based programs through measurements

such as county profiles, the YRBS, and the Kids Count Program.

- * Support healthy youth development through newsletters and presentations at state meetings.
- * Evaluate the overall program effectiveness by monitoring:
 - a) The rate of pregnancy to teenagers aged 15-17.
 - b) The proportion of adolescents who have engaged in sexual intercourse.
 - c) The incidence of youths aged 15-19 who have contracted selected sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
 - d) The rate of births to female teenagers aged 15-17.

The program funds local health jurisdictions to plan and implement abstinence education programs. In 2006, eleven local health departments (LHDs), targeting 13 jurisdictions were funded. Funding received by those LHDs may be carried over into the next year, and LHDs may subcontract with agencies and orga-

nizations in their communities for abstinence education programs and activities. Contracted LHDs are required to match \$3 for every \$4 received – match may be in kind.

A renewal grant for the federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006 has been submitted, again focusing on local health departments as the proposed contract entities. All LHDs will again receive notices of available funding, pending receipt of the federal approval of the grant and notice of grant award. Funded agencies will have the opportunity to participate in call-in conferences in order to share successes and strategies with other contractors, and contractors will be invited to participate at an educational session on abstinence education efforts in Montana at the Spring Public Health Conference in 2007.

For more information regarding the funding contact Ann Hagen-Buss at ahagenbuss@mt.gov.

New Staff Added to FCHB

Dianna Frick, BA, MPH, has accepted the position as MCH Epidemiologist with the FCH Bureau.

Dianna earned her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs at Lewis and Clark College and her Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her master's thesis was on the association between the intervals between pregnancies and maternal and infant health outcomes. After completing her master's degree, Dianna was accepted into the Public Health Prevention Program at CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dapht/dapht/phps/background.htm>). After completing the first year of the program in Atlanta, Dianna accepted a two year appointment with the FCHB here in Montana. Her primary PHPS assignments were comple-

tion of the MCH Needs Assessment in 2005 and development of the FCHB Strategic Plan which was completed just last month.

Dianna's previous work experiences have included work as a prevention specialist with CDC, where she worked to analyze STD screening data and develop evaluation programs for the various STD programs. Dianna has also worked with the United State Agency for International Development on adolescent health projects, and was a member of the US Peace Corp in the Gambia, West Africa.

We're very pleased to have Dianna leading our efforts to continue to develop MCH epidemiologic capacity here in Montana. She will be located in the Diane Building.

The Women's and Men's Health Section has recently hired Liz Johnson, APRN, as their Nurse Consultant. Liz will replace Ellie Hardy who retired in August after 18 years with the Women's and Men's Health Section. Liz is a Certified Nurse Practitioner with seven years of clinical experience working in Montana Title X Family Planning Programs. She is currently the Program Manager for the Montana Diabetes Project in DPHHS and has also worked with the Quality Improvement Organization of Montana. Liz will be a familiar face to some of you and looks forward to meeting many of you during her visits to Title X Family Planning Clinics. She will be a great addition to the Women's and Men's Health Section and will begin employment October 30.

WIC Compliance Investigations Initiated

WIC's Administrative/Retailer Unit has initiated compliance investigations, in accordance with federal regulations.

A compliance investigation can be a "Compliance Buy", a covert purchase using WIC checks to see what is being allowed to be purchased at the WIC retailer. Another form of investigation is the "Inventory Audit", a manual comparison of inventory purchase records to the items purchased with the cashed checks, to determine if enough stock has been purchased in a given time period to cover the items reported sold.

We have had a positive response to the compliance investigations. WIC stores are willing to work with the WIC local agency retailer coordinators for staff training to improve the findings of the compliance buys. Subsequent buys are performed to measure the success of the on-site trainings.

We are proud of the integrity of the WIC retailers, and their dedication to WIC Program standards.

Congratulations to the two Wal-Marts in Billings and the Three Forks Market for their perfect buys in the most recent investigation, where all errors were caught by store staff and all procedures were followed.

For more information contact Trish Kurek at 406-444-5530.

WIC Approved Foods List Updates

The State WIC Program is in the process of updating the Approved Foods List for 2007-2008. There are very few changes and training will be distributed with the updated lists.

Changes in the federal food packages are still in the comment phase and will not affect the current list.

HPV Vaccine Available

In June, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) licensed the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer caused by certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV infection is the most common Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) in the U.S, with approximately 20 million people currently infected. The vaccine, given in a series of three injections, protects against four HPV types which are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts.

- The HPV vaccine is recommended for 11 – 12 year old girls, but can be administered to girls as young as 9 years of age. The vaccine also is recommended for 13 – 26 year old females who have not yet received or completed the vaccine series.

- Ideally, the vaccine should be administered before onset of sexual activity. However, females who are sexually active also may benefit from vaccination. Females who have not been infected with any vaccine HPV type would receive the full benefit of vaccination while women who have already been infected with one or more HPV types would still get protection from the vaccine types they have not acquired.

The private sector list price of the vaccine is about \$120 per dose. Medicaid currently covers the cost of HPV vaccine for Medicaid eligible patients. The CHIP program and some insurers also cover the vaccine. The HPV vaccine is not yet available through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. While there is currently no federal purchasing contract DPHHS expects that the VFC will provide this vaccine some time in the future.

For more information:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc> Information on Vaccines for Children
- <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv> Information on HPV
- <http://www.gardasil.com> Vaccine Product Information

Infant Adoption Awareness Training Available

The Infant Adoption Awareness Training program is offering free training in various communities in Montana. It is a federally-funded project designed to raise awareness about infant adoption. The goals of the Infant Adoption Training are to increase the number of health care professionals who are comfortable presenting adoption options and who feel confident in their knowledge and the legal process and to increase the professional's ability to make appropriate referrals.

The training is *free* to those who would like to attend. The primary audience is those who provide healthcare to pregnant women (hospital and clinic workers and health department employees). However, many others who work with

pregnant women are also considered eligible participants, including high school counselors and teachers, crisis pregnancy volunteers, mental health professionals, and tribal employees. Eligible participants receive a \$50 stipend, mileage, and lodging. Participants also receive free CEUs (7 for social workers, 8 for nurses and OPI staff). The following trainings are currently scheduled:

Great Falls, Wednesday, November 15th
Billings, Saturday, December 9th
Missoula, Wednesday, January 10th
Butte, Monday, February 26th

To learn more or to register on-line, go to www.infantadoptiontraining.org or you may call Shirley Cole at 406-442-4130.

Family Planning Programs Facing Increased Costs of Contraceptives

Family Planning programs nationwide, as well as in Montana, are facing large increases in the price of oral contraceptives. The main concern is the increase in the cost of Ortho Pharmaceutical contraceptives, which are used extensively in family planning programs. When the initial price increases were announced in July, some of Ortho's oral contraceptives increased in price from less than one dollar to \$15 to \$19 per cycle. The price increase occurred primarily among the oral contraceptives for which there is now a generic

version available. In August, after much public comment and involvement by the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, Ortho reduced the price of five oral contraceptives to \$3.20 per cycle. Although the decrease was welcomed, the overall cost of contraceptives to family planning clinics will still increase by an average of 35%. Clinics have explored the use of generic contraceptives, but their prices range from \$7 to \$12 per cycle. In addition, generic manufacturers were not able to keep up with the demand

for their products once Ortho's price increases were announced.

Montana Family Planning Clinics are developing strategies to cope with these increased costs while still providing quality and comprehensive health care to low income patients. Clinics are faced with increasing the charges for contraceptives, decreasing the choices/types of oral contraceptives available to clients, and/or discontinuing the provision of other more expensive contraceptive options, such as the Ortho Evra Patch and the NuvaRing.

PLUK Workshop Offered

Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) is offering a workshop entitled *Creating a Sensory Diet: Strategies for Home and School* on November 7th in Billings at the Mansfield Center in the Burns Auditorium from 10am - 3pm. Registration has been waived.

This five hour workshop will feature Aimee Roberts, OTR/L, a pediatric Occupational Therapist, discussing the use of a sensory diet to meet the needs of children in both the home environment and at school. Mrs. Roberts is with Blue Skies Pediatric Therapy Services in Billings. She has experience working with children with sensory processing disorder including Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD). She has worked in both the public school setting as well as in private clinics. Mrs. Roberts has graciously agreed to provide this workshop and discussion for PLUK.

Participants will: Gain a general understanding of sensory processing; Gain understanding of sensorimotor preferences vs. behavior; Improve awareness of personal sensory preferences by experiencing a variety of sensory strategies through hands-on labs; Develop and implement a

sensory diet for various environments and events.

The registration fee has been waived for this workshop. Register by phoning the PLUK office at 800-222-7585 or 406/255-0540.

SPHC Call for Abstracts

The Public Health and Safety Division is calling for abstracts from individuals interested in giving presentations at the 2007 Spring Public Health Conference in Great Falls.

The conference, to be held April 17-19, will focus on maternal and child health. Abstracts are due by November 22nd to Natacha Bird, Women's and Men's Health Section, PHSD, 444-3609, or nbird@mt.gov. Contact Natacha for the abstract format.

Appropriate topics include child abuse and neglect, childhood obesity, drug-endangered children, mental health, oral health, reproductive health, teen pregnancy, substance abuse prevention, nutrition, breast feeding, early childhood development, and emergent public health issues.

Close to 200 public health and health-care professionals from across Montana are expected to attend.

For general conference information, contact Gail Brockbank, conference coordinator, at 406-442-4141 or gailb@mt.net.

Plans for Legislature Under Way

The Executive Planning Process (EPP) is in full swing, with all departments' legislative and budget requests being submitted for consideration to the Governor's budget office.

FCHB has requested authorization to expend all federal grants received, and continued general fund for the Public Health Home Visiting and Genetics programs. In addition, requests for funding to support WIC system maintenance, as well as additional funding for Public Health Home Visiting and Newborn Screening Follow-up has also been requested. Legislation requests developed include modification of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) for newborn hearing screening, contraception dispensing by family planning providers, and the newborn screening program for metabolic conditions.

More information regarding DPHHS and other department requests will become available once the Governor's budget is developed in November 2006.